

Report to Council

Subject: Changes to political balance and committee memberships

Date: 23 July 2025

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Purpose

Following the recent by-election in the Calverton ward of the council, the political balance of the council has changed. As such, the allocation of seats to committees must be updated and this report proposes to make the necessary changes.

Recommendation(s)

To approve the following changes to representation on committees:

- 1) Remove Councillor Elliot from Environment & Licensing Committee**
- 2) Remove Councillor Elliott from Licensing Act Committee**
- 3) Add Councillor Meads to Environment & Licensing Committee**
- 4) Add Councillor Meads to Licensing Act Panel**
- 5) Add Councillors Whiting and Meads to Standards Committee**
- 6) Remove Councillor Catherine Pope from Joint Consultative & Safety Committee**
- 7) Add Councillor Elliott to Joint Consultative & Safety Committee**
- 8) Remove Councillor Elliott from Standards Committee**
- 9) Add Councillor Adams to Standards Committee**
- 10) Remove Councillor Adams from Appeals & Retirement Committee**
- 11) Add Councillor Maltby to Appeals & Retirement Committee**

1 Background

- 1.1 In determining the membership of committees, account must be taken of the requirements of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and 1991 made under sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. These regulations require that seats on committees and sub-committees are allocated to the political groups in a way which reflects the overall political balance of the Council. A political group is defined as a group consisting of two or more members.

Following the recent by-election in the Calverton ward, there is a change to the political make-up of the Council, which is as follows:

Political party/grouping	Number of councillors and change
Labour Group	26 (-)
Conservative Group	9 (-1)
Liberal Democrat Group	4 (-)
Independent Group	2 (+1)

There has also been a political grouping formed of the 2 independent members, Councillors Whiting and Meads. Councillor Whiting will be taking on the role of the Leader of the Independent Group.

- 1.2 There are a total of 79 committee seats to be allocated for the 2025/26 municipal year. The allocation of seats on the committees is as follows:

Committee	Total seats	Lab	Con	Lib Dem	Ind
Planning	16	10	4	1	1
Environment & Licensing	11	7	2 (-1)	1	1 (+1)
Licensing Act	11	7	2 (-1)	1	1 (+1)
Appeals & Retirement	7	5	1	1	0
Joint Consultative & Safety	7	4 (-1)	2 (+1)	1	0
Audit	7	4	2	1	0
Overview & Scrutiny	13	8	3	1	1

Appointments & Conditions of Service	7	5	1	1	0
TOTAL	79	50 (-1)	17 (-1)	8	4 (+2)

As a result of the by-election, the Independents need to be allocated two more seats across the committees of the council. The nominations for amendments have been provided by the Labour and Conservative groups.

Both members of the Independent Group will be added to the Standards Committee as they are a political grouping. As per the constitution, the Standards Committee is not politically balanced, and its membership is formed of two members from each party/grouping.

2 Proposal

It is proposed to make the following changes to committee memberships:

- Remove Councillor Elliot from Environment & Licensing Committee
- Remove Councillor Elliott from Licensing Act Committee
- Add Councillor Meads to Environment & Licensing Committee
- Add Councillor Meads to Licensing Act Panel
- Add Councillors Whiting and Meads to Standards Committee
- Remove Councillor Catherine Pope from Joint Consultative & Safety Committee
- Add Councillor Elliott to Joint Consultative & Safety Committee
- Remove Councillor Elliott from Standards Committee
- Add Councillor Adams to Standards Committee
- Remove Councillor Adams from Appeals & Retirement Committee
- Add Councillor Maltby to Appeals & Retirement Committee

3 Alternative Options

Council may decide not to approve the recommendations as proposed. However, these proposals have been put forward by the two affected groups to ensure that membership of Committees reflects requirements in the constitution in terms of political committee make up and membership.

4 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5 Legal Implications

The legal implications are as detailed in this report.

6 Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

There are no environmental sustainability implications arising from this report.

8 Appendices

None.

9 Background Papers

None.